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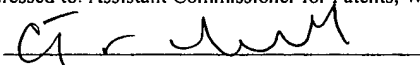
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CHASE J. TROMBELLA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Dominique P. BRIDON et al.

Serial No.: 09/657,276

Filing Date: September 7, 2000

For: PROTECTION OF ENDOGENOUS  
THERAPEUTIC PEPTIDES FROM  
PEPTIDASE ACTIVITY THROUGH  
CONJUGATION TO BLOOD  
COMPONENTS

Office: L. Q. Wells

Group Art Unit: 1617

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
MAILED APRIL 30, 2002, PAPER 12**

#15/B  
AKO  
10/16/02

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2002, Paper 12, for which a response was due on July 30, 2002.

A petition for a two-month extension of time is attached to extend the deadline to respond until September 30, 2002. As such, this response is timely filed.